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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

11 June 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

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SUBJECT:

Processing Concept

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Submitted to NRO For Budgeting

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Consideration

1. Ironically, since talking to you the evening of 10 June on the processing concept submitted to Dr. Flax, we received from Eastman Kodak the attached message. I feel that Eastman is within its rights in notifying us of this decision since though the concept was ours, the technical breakthroughs which permitted Eastman to solve the problems rightfully belong to them. I feel they have been gracious in withholding the material developed pending a response from us.

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2. From what I am able to gather by talking to friends on the staff at NRO, there is a [redacted] whom I have not met, but who since [redacted] departure, has placed himself directly between [redacted] relief) and Dr. Flax. It is [redacted] who is delaying action on this proposal. Though beginning with [redacted] and other members of the staff, they feel that this proposal has considerable promise. They also feel that it has a wider tactical application than strategic; thus, the delaying action hoping that something will occur prior to 1 July or even later, which would permit the Air Force to take over the concept and develop the equipment at Wright-Patterson.

3. I agree that the proposal suggests equipment which will have a wider tactical use than strategic; however, as noted in the proposal, the concept of deployment is tactical with the U-2 or U-2R. I envisaged a deployment such as that to the Far East whereby within 10 hours or sooner after recovery of the aircraft at its staging base, we could have a P.I. report. We anticipate at least a 30-hour savings deploying this concept, and it seems to me that this number of hours is extremely significant in this business today. I think the justification for our needing this equipment is obvious and I have no doubt that we can develop the equipment for not only our own use, but use by others, be it Air Force, Marines, Navy etc. more cheaply and quickly working jointly with representatives from interested services.

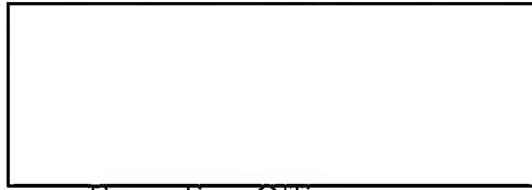
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4. I would appreciate it, if at your convenience, you have the opportunity to raise this subject with Dr. Flax that we get a formal statement from NRO regarding their position on this proposal. If it is unfavorable, then I can notify Eastman immediately. There are funds available [redacted] [redacted] at Eastman today, a portion of which could be applied against this program and to date, have not been scheduled for application against anything else. It is unfortunate we can't keep politics out of such things as this.

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Executive Officer
Office of Special Activities

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